

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).
International Application No. PCT/AU2003/000481	International Filing Date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 24 April 2003	Priority Date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 26 April 2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. 7 B28B 21/18, 7/30		
Applicant VERTECH HUME PTY LTD et al		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheet(s).

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 16 October 2003	Date of completion of the report 27 July 2004
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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	YES
	Claims 1-9	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	YES
	Claims 1-9	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-9	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Citations

Derwent Abstract Accession No. 87-204821/29, class P64
 SU 1276510 A (BOLKVADZE) 15 December 1986
 Abstract (& SU 1276510, Figures)

GB 1545223 A (HANFORD BOOT RESEARCH PTY LTD) 2 May 1979
 Claims

EP 545346 B (TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITAT DRESDEN) 12 June 1996
 Claims and Figure 2

Reasoning

SU 1276510 discloses forming a hollow concrete column wherein surplus water is removed through openings in a mandrel which includes a valve used for controlling the removal of water. Consequently, independent claims 1-3 are not novel. The features defined in claims 4-9 are either disclosed in SU 1276510 or are features that cannot be considered to involve an inventive step.

GB 1545223 discloses a mould liner containing numerous valves that are normally closed. When pressure is applied to a concrete slurry, water is forced out of the container through the valves. Although this document does not disclose the vertical moulding of long articles it is considered that it would not be inventive to apply the disclosed mould liner to forming such articles. Consequently, independent claims 1-3 lack an inventive step. The features defined in claims 4-9 are either disclosed in GB 1545223 or are features that cannot be considered to involve an inventive step.

EP 545346 discloses a filter tube for the removal of excess water from a concrete structure. The filter has perforations in its wall and a control tube fits inside the filter tube. The control tube is inserted fully into the filter tube whilst the concrete is being poured. As the concrete is being compacted the control tube is withdrawn so that excess water flows through the perforations into the filter tube. Although this document does not disclose the vertical moulding of long articles it is considered that it would not be inventive to apply the disclosed filter tube to forming such articles. Consequently, independent claims 1-3 lack an inventive step. The features defined in claims 4-9 are either disclosed in EP 545346 or are features that cannot be considered to involve an inventive step.

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Claim 5 is not clear because it defines "a mould liner as claimed in claim 3". However, claim 3 defines a "mould" rather than a "mould liner".